<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended)   A reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a reproducing means for reading information stored in a recording ~~record~~ medium and reproducing ~~this~~ the information;

a skip-operation accepting means for arbitrarily accepting ~~either~~ one of an instruction for a forward reproduction-position skip ~~or~~ and an instruction for a backward reproduction-position skip;

a skip-time determining means for making a skip time for ~~either~~ one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip longer than [[a]] the skip time for another of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip ~~the other~~, and determining [[a]] the skip time for one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip based on the one ~~either~~ of the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip and the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~which is~~ accepted by the skip-operation accepting means; ~~and~~

a controlling means for, when ~~if~~ the skip-operation accepting means accepts one of the ~~either~~ instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~or~~ and the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip during a reproduction ~~in~~ by the reproducing means, ~~then~~ stopping the reproduction by ~~in~~ the reproducing means, moving ~~the~~ a reading position ~~in~~ from which the reproducing means reads the information from the ~~record~~ recording medium, by the skip time determined, for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward

reproduction-position skip, by the skip-time determining means, and resuming the reproduction after the moving ~~movement~~ of the reading position is completed;

a forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means for clocking an elapsed time that has elapsed since a last instruction has been accepted for the forward reproduction-position skip; and

a backward-skip deciding means for deciding whether or not the elapsed time clocked by the forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means has exceeded a predetermined time, when the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip,

wherein, when the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means determines a predetermined first skip time, and

wherein, when the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means determines a second skip time that is shorter than the first skip time.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein, when ~~characterized in that if~~ the skip-operation accepting means accepts ~~either~~ the one of the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~or~~ and the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip during a temporary stop ~~in~~ by the reproducing means, ~~then~~ the controlling means moves the reading position ~~in~~ from which the reproducing means reads the information from the ~~record~~ recording medium by the skip time determined, for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip, by the skip-

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time determining means, and reproduces only ~~the~~ first information ~~in~~ from the reading position after the moving of the reading position ~~movement~~.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein the reproduction apparatus further includes:[[,]]

_____a forward skip-time storing means for storing the skip time for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ in advance~~, and~~; and

_____a backward skip-time storing means for storing the skip time for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ in advance~~; and~~

wherein, when~~if~~ the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~instruction~~, the skip-time determining means chooses the skip time for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ stored in the forward skip-time storing means, and

wherein, when ~~if~~ the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~instruction~~, the skip-time determining means chooses the skip time for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ stored in the backward skip-time storing means.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the forward skip-time storing means stores, in advance, the skip time for the forward reproduction-position skip, ~~time~~ which is a greater value than the skip time

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for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ stored, in advance, in the backward skip-time storing means.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the backward skip-time storing means stores, in advance, the skip time for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ which is a greater value than the skip time for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~ stored, in advance, in the forward skip-time storing means.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, ~~claim 23, characterized in that:~~

wherein the reproduction apparatus further includes[[,]]:

_____a first skip-time storing means for storing the predetermined first skip time in advance~~, and~~; and

_____a second skip-time storing means for storing, in advance, the second skip time that is shorter than the first skip time~~; and,~~

~~the skip-time determining means,~~

wherein, when~~if~~ the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~instruction~~ and ~~if~~ when the ~~forward skip-operation elapse~~ elapsed time clocked by the forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means exceeds~~has exceeded~~ the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means ~~then~~ chooses the first skip

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time stored in advance in the first skip-time storing means as the skip time for the backward reproduction-position skip time, and

wherein, when if the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip instruction and if when the forward skip-operation elapse elapsed time clocked by the forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means has does not exceed exceeded the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means then chooses the second skip time stored in advance in the second skip-time storing means as the skip time for the backward reproduction-position skip time.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, characterized in that:

wherein the reproduction apparatus further includes:[[,]]

_____a backward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means for clocking the a backward elapsed time that has elapsed since a which elapses after the last instruction has been accepted is given for the backward reproduction-position skip, and; and

_____a forward-skip deciding means for deciding whether or not the backward elapsed elapse time clocked by the backward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means has exceeded [[a]] the predetermined time, when if the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip instruction; and,

wherein, when if the forward-skip deciding means decides that the backward elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time has elapsed, the skip-time determining means determines [[a]] the predetermined first skip time, and

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wherein, when if the forward-skip deciding means decides that the backward elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined time has not elapsed, the skip-time determining means determines [[a]] the second skip time that is shorter than the first skip time.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 25, characterized in that:

wherein the reproduction apparatus further includes:[[,]]

a first skip-time storing means for storing the predetermined first skip time in advance, and; and

a second skip-time storing means for storing, in advance, the second skip time that is shorter than the first skip time; and,

the skip-time determining means,

wherein, when if the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip instruction and if when the backward elapsed skip-operation elapse time clocked by the backward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means exceeds has exceeded the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means then chooses the first skip time stored in advance in the first skip-time storing means as the skip time for the forward reproduction-position skip time, and

wherein, when if the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip instruction and if when the backward elapsed skip-operation elapse time clocked by the backward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means has does not exceed exceeded the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means then chooses the

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second skip time stored in advance in the second skip-time storing means as the ~~skip time for the~~ forward reproduction-position skip ~~time~~.

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

Claim 28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, ~~claim 28, characterized in that:~~

wherein the reproduction apparatus further includes:~~[[,]]~~

_____a skip-direction storing means for storing ~~the~~ a skip direction last accepted ~~last~~ by the skip-operation accepting means~~, and~~; and

_____a skip-number storing means for storing ~~the~~ a number of times that ~~at which~~ the skip-time determining means has ~~determines the second skip time~~ repeatedly determined the second skip time~~; and~~,

~~the skip-time determining means,~~

wherein, the skip-time determining means determines the second skip time, when ~~if~~ the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined time ~~had not elapsed~~ and ~~if~~ when the instruction accepted by the skip-operation accepting means indicates ~~the~~ a skip direction that is opposite to the ~~direction to the~~ skip direction stored in the skip-direction storing means,

wherein the skip-time determining means determines the second skip time, when ~~if~~ the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined

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time ~~had not elapsed,~~ when ~~if~~ the instruction accepted by the skip-operation accepting means indicates ~~the~~ a same skip direction as the skip direction stored in the skip-direction storing means and when ~~if~~ the number of times stored in the skip-number storing means ~~at which the second skip time is repeatedly determined~~ has not reached a predetermined number of times,

wherein the skip-time determining means determines the first skip time, when ~~if~~ the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time ~~had elapsed~~, and

wherein the skip-time determining means determines the first skip time, when ~~if~~ the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined time ~~had not elapsed,~~ when ~~if~~ the instruction accepted by the skip-operation accepting means indicates the same skip direction as the skip direction stored in the skip-direction storing means and when ~~if~~ the number of times stored in the skip-number storing means ~~at which the second skip time is repeatedly determined~~ has reached [[a]] the predetermined number of times.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, ~~claim 23, characterized in that:~~

wherein a reproduction-time clocking means is further provided for clocking ~~the~~ a reproduction time from ~~the~~ a last skip-operation completion time to ~~the~~ a next skip-operation start time~~; and,~~ and

wherein, when ~~if~~ the next skip operation is the forward reproduction-position skip, the skip-time determining means determines, as the skip time for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip, ~~the~~ a time which is

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obtained by subtracting the reproduction time clocked by the reproduction-time clocking means from either skip time one of the first skip time and the second skip time.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 25, characterized in that:

wherein a reproduction-time clocking means is further provided for clocking the a reproduction time from the a last skip-operation completion time to the a next skip-operation start time; and, and

wherein, when if the next skip operation is the forward reproduction-position skip, the skip-time determining means determines, as the skip time for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip, the a time which is obtained by subtracting the reproduction time clocked by the reproduction-time clocking means from either skip time one of the first skip time and the second skip time.

Claim 32 (Cancelled)

Claim 33 (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, claim 23, characterized in that:

wherein a reproduction-time clocking means is further provided for clocking the a reproduction time from the a last skip-operation completion time to the a next skip-operation start time; and, and

wherein, when if the next skip operation is the backward reproduction-position skip, the skip-time determining means determines, as the skip time for the one of the forward

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reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip, ~~the~~ a time which is obtained by adding the reproduction time clocked by the reproduction-time clocking means to ~~either skip time~~ one of the first skip time and the second skip time.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended)   The reproduction apparatus according to claim 25, ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein a reproduction-time clocking means is further provided for clocking ~~the~~ a reproduction time from ~~the~~ a last skip-operation completion time to ~~the~~ a next skip-operation start time; ~~and,~~ and

wherein, when ~~if~~ the next skip operation is the backward reproduction-position skip, the skip-time determining means determines, as the skip time for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip, ~~the~~ a time which is obtained by adding the reproduction time clocked by the reproduction-time clocking means to ~~either skip time~~ one of the first skip time and the second skip time.

Claim 35 (Cancelled)

Claim 36 (Currently Amended)   A reproduction method, comprising:

a reproducing step of reading information stored in a ~~record~~ recording medium and reproducing ~~this~~ the information;

a skip-operation accepting step of arbitrarily accepting ~~either~~ one of an instruction for a forward reproduction-position skip ~~or~~ and an instruction for a backward reproduction-position skip;

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a skip-time determining step of making a skip time for ~~either~~ one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip longer than [[a]] the skip time for another of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip ~~the other~~, and determining [[a]] the skip time for one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip based on ~~either~~ the one of the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip and the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip ~~which is~~ accepted in the skip-operation accepting step; ~~and~~

a controlling step of, when one of the ~~if either~~ instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~or~~ and the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip is accepted during a reproduction performed by the reproducing step, ~~then~~ stopping the reproduction performed by the reproducing step, moving ~~the~~ a reading position ~~in,~~ from which the reproducing step reads the information ~~is read~~ from the ~~record~~ recording medium, by the skip time determined, for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip, in the skip-time determining step, and resuming the reproduction after the moving ~~movement~~ of the reading position is completed;

a forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking step of clocking an elapsed time that has elapsed since a last instruction has been accepted for the forward reproduction-position skip; and

a backward-skip deciding step of deciding whether or not the elapsed time clocked in the forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking step has exceeded a predetermined time, when the skip-operation accepting step accepts the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip,

wherein, when the backward-skip deciding step decides that the elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time, the skip-time determining step determines a predetermined first skip time, and

wherein, when the backward-skip deciding step decides that the elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined time, the skip-time determining step determines a second skip time that is shorter than the first skip time.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended)   A non-transitory computer-readable recording record medium having in which a reproduction program recorded thereon is stored, the reproduction program causing allowing a computer to function as:

a reproducing means for reading information stored in a record recording medium and reproducing this the information;

a skip-operation accepting means for arbitrarily accepting either one of an instruction for a forward reproduction-position skip or and an instruction for a backward reproduction-position skip;

a skip-time determining means for making a skip time for either one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip longer than [[a]] the skip time for another of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip the other, and determining [[a]] the skip time for one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip based on either the one of the instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip and the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip which is accepted by the skip-operation accepting means; and

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a controlling means for, ~~when~~ <u>if</u> the skip-operation accepting means accepts ~~either~~ <u>one of the</u> instruction for the forward reproduction-position skip ~~or~~ <u>and the instruction for</u> the backward reproduction-position skip during a reproduction ~~in~~ <u>by</u> the reproducing means, ~~then~~ stopping the reproduction ~~in~~ <u>by</u> the reproducing means, moving ~~the~~ <u>a reading</u> position, <u>from</u> ~~in~~ which the reproducing means reads <u>the</u> information from the <u>recording</u> ~~record~~ medium, by the skip time determined, <u>for the one of the forward reproduction-position skip and the backward reproduction-position skip,</u> by the skip-time determining means, and resuming the reproduction after the <u>moving</u> ~~movement~~ of the reading position is completed<u>;</u>

<u>a forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means for clocking an elapsed time that has elapsed since a last instruction has been accepted for the forward reproduction-position skip; and</u>

<u>a backward-skip deciding means for deciding whether or not the elapsed time clocked by the forward skip-operation elapse-time clocking means has exceeded a predetermined time, when the skip-operation accepting means accepts the instruction for the backward reproduction-position skip,</u>

<u>wherein, when the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means determines a predetermined first skip time, and</u>

<u>wherein, when the backward-skip deciding means decides that the elapsed time does not exceed the predetermined time, the skip-time determining means determines a second skip time that is shorter than the first skip time.</u>

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